configured to provide switching between a second set of ports while in said master mode,

wherein said second switch is in said master mode when said third switch is in said standby

mode, and said second switch is in said standby mode when said third switch is in said master

mode.remarks

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Extremeware Software User's Guide ("Extremeware"). The Examiner concedes that Extremeware does not disclose the elements: "wherein at least one of said ports flushes a layer 2 forwarding database and rebroadcasts for a new path."

Notwithstanding the absence of this teaching in Extremeware, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to have one of the ports flush a layer 2 forwarding database and rebroadcast for a new path. The Examiner directs Applicant's attention to Dynamic FDB discussed in Extremeware. However, the Dynamic FDB, by the Examiner's own admission, does not teach the flushing of a layer 2 forwarding database at all.

Moreover, it does not teach the flushing of a layer 2 forwarding database "upon said configuration of said second switch to transition to said master mode," as claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-19 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, the applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: March 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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